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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Auditor Edelen praises prison sentence for former superintendent

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Auditor Edelen on Tuesday applauded the two-year federal prison sentence handed down to former Dayton Independent Schools Superintendent Gary Rye for embezzling taxpayer money from the tiny Northern Kentucky district.

“Today was a powerful demonstration that there are consequences for stealing from children,” Auditor Edelen said. “I am pleased justice was served as a result of our work last year and our partnership with the new leadership at the school district. Education is the most important moral obligation we have as a Commonwealth and the largest investment taxpayers make. I will continue to be present in education, making sure school systems run for the benefit of children and taxpayers.”

The Auditor’s office released a special examination in March 2013 that found the former superintendent received at least \$224,000 in benefits and payments over an eight-year period that were not authorized by the school board.

Dayton Independent is located along the Ohio River in Campbell County. Almost 90 percent of the roughly 1,000 students qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch and were found by the Kentucky Department of Education to be struggling academically during the time of the abuses.

The Auditor’s office has conducted 15 special examinations into public school districts in the past two years. The exams have focused on making sure resources are being spent to education children rather than support bureaucracies that may have become bloated.

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